









very anxious to proceed. He feared a ship days' quarantine at Singapore, and was afraid that he might arrive in Hongkong on the 14th of May. Should the *Enrica* be at all delayed, the Russian Government has arranged to send a warship to Alexandria so that it might come to meet it by way of the Black Sea.

#### AN OUTSIDE VIEW OF THE CHINESE COMMERCIAL INCIDENT.

The *Peking* and *Tientsin* Times say:—  
Flattered indeed. Our Hongkong contemporary, the *Daily Press*, has been an excellent leader on some casual remarks we made in this column some weeks ago about the presence of Chinese officials at the laying of the foundation stone of the new (renewed) Chamber of Commerce. Some sceptic asserted that neither public speeches nor newspaper articles ever influence man's opinions, that both are absolutely thrown away and are useless in the least degree. We are now able to confer ourselves as an exception to this. Our contemporary's weekly statement of facts, not before known to us, has converted us. Colonel Chan, the chief Chinese official, on the occasion, has been censured by his own higher officials and cautioned about repeating the offence. This course was taken at the instigation of H. M. Government in Hongkong. The Chinese Government clearly points out the danger of these innovations—that they give some colour to the insistent assertion of some Southern officials, viz., that Hongkong is an island, granted temporarily to the foreigner for the purpose of trade, and that the British hold it by more grace of the Celestial Emperor; that their sovereignty is not complete. We are altogether with the *Daily Press* in taboing every thing which might possibly countenance so preposterous a signment.

#### NEWS VIA AUSTRALIA.

London, 16th March.  
Six hundred and forty-eight Italians are prisoners in the hands of the Shoa.

King Menelik has ordered the Italian garrison at Adigat to evacuate the town with all the honours of war.

King Menelik stipulates that Tigre, the northern division of Abyssinia, shall be independent of Italy and Abyssinia.

It is reported that Russia has sent an embassy to King Menelik, desiring the Emperor to mediate between Italy and Abyssinia.

It is understood that the Convention which the Italian Premier, the Marquis di Rudini, is negotiating with King Menelik, will not affect future events in Abyssinia.

The *Caesar* of Russia has decorated King Menelik of Abyssinia.

In addition to the North Staffordshire regiment, now proceeding up the Nile to Wady Halfa, a canal corps of 10,000 men, with heavy guns is also starting at once.

Ten steamers have arrived at Wady Halfa with material for the extension of the railway along the Nile from Suakin to Khartoum.

The entire British army and forces will, it is arranged, assemble on April 1st. It is expected, though it is not yet definitely settled, that General Sir Herbert Kitchener, leader of the Egyptian force, will command the expedition, and that Major General Buller will command the second division, and Major General Hunter the third.

The Khedive, Abbas Fasha, is greatly interested in the march of the troops, and in the course which events are taking.

London, 17th March.  
The Dongola expedition gave rise to a debate in the House of Commons, last night.

The Hon. George Goschen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that influences were at work in Africa, which if unchecked might prove dangerous to the peace of Europe.

Sir William Harcourt said that he would not oppose the expedition if it were limited in its object and were intended merely to avert immediate danger. But if it was to be regarded as the initiation of a policy for reconquering the Sudan the Opposition would most steadfastly oppose it.

Mr. Balfour said that Great Britain had the most profound sympathy with Italy in the struggle which had broken out in Abyssinia.

The *Scudra*, he declared, was "under the worst rule in the world. It was impossible to conceive a more beneficial change than to transfer it to British hands."

The *Times* has expressed its approval of a dual forward policy in the Sudan.

The *Novoe Vremya*, a well-known Russian journal, regards the expedition as implying the intention of Great Britain to reconquer the Sudan. It considers also that it will have the effect of indefinitely postponing the settlement of the Egyptian question.

London, 17th March.  
By a powder explosion on board the Italian steamer *Matadi*, which occurred near Bona, the offest coast of Africa, the vessel was destroyed and forty lives were lost. The officers were saved.

The Portuguese Government has decided to expend at once £500,000 on new warships.

A disastrous snowstorm is reported from the district of Orel, in Central Russia; 130 persons perished in the storm.

London, 18th March.  
A committee of the United States House of Representatives has recommended the passing of a Bill to prohibit the immigration of alien non-protestant Chinese.

Mr. Herbert Whitney, the member for Ashton-under-Lyne, has moved a resolution in the House of Commons to the effect that the Government should endeavour to secure the world's agreement to a free trade between gold and silver.

Mr. Goschen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the Government would not abandon the present gold standard, although they were willing to consider the matter.

Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, continues to parley with President Kruger with regard to the late dispute about the charter of the British South Africa Company. He refuses to modify article IV, but his decision to control the police and military forces of the Company has largely removed the objection to the continuance of the company.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday the Premier, the Marquis di Rudini, stated that General Baldissera, the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian forces in Abyssinia, had been instructed to take the utmost precautions to prevent the Italian from leaving the province of Tigre, or to make Abyssinia an Italian protectorate. He asked for a credit of 1,400,000 lire (25,000,000 francs).

The Premier's speech was received with applause.

The Senate has passed a resolution thanking the British Parliament for the sympathy expressed by that body for Italy.

London, 18th March.  
In the Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday, the Premier, the Marquis di Rudini, made a statement regarding the attitude of the Government in regard to the late dispute about the charter of the British South Africa Company.

He refused to modify article IV, but his decision to control the police and military forces of the Company has largely removed the objection to the continuance of the company.

The *Cafo* correspondent of the *Times* expresses the opinion that Italian troops would prove more useful in the Sudan than British, owing to the extreme heat which will have to be encountered.

Slavia Tasha, whose local knowledge of the Sudan is very extensive, will join the expedition.

London, 18th March.  
The Anglo-Egyptian expedition against the Derwishes continues to excite much interest in political circles.

In connection with the disposition of the troops, it is stated that a reserve force consisting of three battalions will be stationed between Wady Halfa and Atakab.

It is reported that Sir George Goschen, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has advised that the expedition should not advance beyond Atakab until September.

Information has been received regarding the movements of the Derwishes in the Sudan. An army of 10,000 men is at Dongola, and 2,000 picked warriors are within 100 miles of the Egyptian frontier. There are also Derwishes at Mursi Wells.

#### SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Dorchester*, from Amoy 18th April, had variable winds and fog.

The German steamer *Dorothea Richwiler*, from Mopi 10th April, had dense fog during all the voyage.

The British steamer *Chrysanthemum*, from Wuhu and Chinkiang 10th April, had foggy weather and light wind from port to port.

The British steamer *Nanyang*, from Singapore 8th April, had light N.E. winds and fine weather to Cape Padaran; fresh S.E. winds and moderate sea to lat. 20° N.; light winds and heavy weather from there to port.

Mar. 25, British bark *Launberg*, McDougall, Dec. 16, from New York for Saigon.

25, British bark *Launberg*, McDougall, Feb. 23, from Manila for London.

25, Ned. str. *Scambling*, De Boer, Mar. 25, from Batavia for Rotterdam.

27, British ship *Solida*, Crowe, Feb. 27, from India for Melbourne.

28, British ship *Leanda*, Dodge, Mar. 27, from India for Montreal.

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THE WEATHER.									
CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER, 14th APRIL, AT 4 P.M.									
STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Humidity.	Direction.	Force.	Clouds.	State of Sky.	Remarks.
Whampoa.	29.97	87	SW	80	0	0	0	0	0
Shanghai.	29.94	87	SW	80	0	0	0	0	0
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